



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,472	08/26/2003	Lawrence M. Burns	1875.3770001	2309
26111	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, JIMMY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2829	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,472	BURNS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jimmy Nguyen	2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1105</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Argument

The examiner acknowledges the amendment filed 10/11/05 has been carefully considered and upon further search the examiner is hereby make a new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 - 4, 11 – 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Kiribata et al (US 5,764,655).

As to claims 1, 11, 14, Kiribata et al discloses (figs 1, 2) a method and system of monitoring an integrated circuit chip, comprising:

(a) receiving at least one digitized sense signal (signal from IC to tester) from the integrated circuit chip (1, 2), whereby the at least one digitized sense signal represents a corresponding process-dependent parameter (performance parameters, column 2 line 55 - 60) within the integrated circuit chip (1, 2); and

(b) determining an analog value (the parameters could be digital or analog form) for the at least one process dependent circuit parameters (performance parameters) from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter (performance parameters) is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit (1,2) and the at least one determined analog value is utilized (performance parameters) to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit .

As to claims 3, 13, Kiribata et al discloses (figs 1,2) the method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises retrieving the at least one value (expected value, from the tester) from a look-up table using the at least one digitized signal.

As to claims 4, 14, Kiribata et al discloses (figs 1,2) the method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises calculating (from tester) the at least one value from the at least one digitized signal.

As to claims 2, 12, Kiribata et al discloses (figs 1,2) a method wherein steps (a) and (b) are perform outside of the ic (1, 2) (it been performed from the tester).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2829

3. Claims 5 – 10, 15 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiribata et al (US 5,764,655).

As to claims 5 – 10, 15 –20, Kiribata et al disclosed the tester sensed the performance parameters of the IC chips (1, 2). However, the performance parameters are the broad terms of the following parameters

a gate-to-source threshold voltage of a transistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip;

a transconductance parameter of a transistor fabricated on integrated circuit chip;

a sheet resistance of a resistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip;

a temperature of the integrated circuit chip; and

a power supply voltage on the integrated circuit chip.

It would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to included the parameters such as (temperature, powers supply, sheet resistance and transconductance) for the purpose of recognizing the things that effect the operation of chip to improve, correct, and detect fault


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 -272-1965. The examiner can normally be reached on M-f from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramtez Nestor, can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JN.
1/6/2006


JERMELE HOLLINGTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 2829
01/09/06